

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Janeth Moreira. I live in Newark, New Jersey but have lived in New Haven, Connecticut for 4 years. I am writing in support of H.B. 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I believe that HUSKY should be expanded first of all because of the kids. I brought both of my children with me from Ecuador. One suffered from Epilepsy, and had to take medication every day. We even had to take him to the emergency room twice in order to receive care. At a hospital in New Haven, we were able to be referred to a program that helped him feel a bit better, but we were not able to get any additional support with follow up doctors visits or with medication. He was very sick, and I frequently had to make the decision of either buying my children food or buying my son's medication.

I can recount a personal experience with my own healthcare. After having my child, I received some postpartum care, but about a year later, I began to experience very severe pains and fevers. I could not go to the doctor due to the high cost of care, so I had to stay with basic medications and see if they would help me. Later on, the pain returned, and I had to wait longer because no care was available. Because I did not have medical care, I waited too long and got more sick.

Having access to medical care would help us a lot. It would especially help my children because children get sick easily. If we don't have the ability to pay for them to go to the doctor or if they are not able to get a timely visit, they will get worse. Healthcare is a right for everyone. There are a lot of people in my situation who will wait to seek care for their illness and then get worse.

I support expanding HUSKY to all, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Janeth Moreira